augmentation and upgradation during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period keeping in view that there would be spurt of cargo traffic over the next five years;

(b) if so, the concrete measures and steps Government is considering to take and the amount to be involved; and

(c) by what time the overhauling of major ports would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Under the Eleventh Five Year Plan, which covers the period from 2007-2012, the capacity of Major Ports is planned to be enhanced to 1016 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to cater to a projected traffic of 708 MTPA. Major Ports have identified projects covering the entire gamut of activities, namely, deepening of channels/berths, construction and reconstruction of berths/jetties, floating jetties, rail and road connectivity projects, procurement, upgradation and modernization of equipment and other demanding schemes in order to meet the capacity requirement. The Government has also put in place a scheme for private sector participation in Major Ports for handling bulk, break bulk and multipurpose and specialized cargo,warehousing and public storage facilities, dry docking and ship repair facilities. To make the project bankable, Government has also issued a new Model Concession Agreement (MCA). It takes into account, *inter alia,* investor's concerns, in addition, all the 12 Major Ports have formulated Port Business Plan, with a 20 years perspective as well as Action Plan for 7 years period with a view to transforming them into ports with world class facilities suited to the requirement of future economy of India. The total proposed outlay for the Eleventh Plan period for the Major Ports is Rs. 17551.24 crores of which the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) component is Rs. 2056.98 crores. Private sector investment is anticipated to the tune of Rs. 36868.24 crores.

Upgradation of roads in Gujarat

2762. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat are not upgraded to National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government intends to upgrade the Abu roads; and

(d) if so, the time by when these are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) The declaration of more State Roads including the roads connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat and other State Roads as National Highways, at present, is not a priority for the Government. The existing National Highways system of about 66,754 km itself has deficiencies in many respects such as inadequate pavement crust, poor geometrics and drainage, weak and narrow bridges etc. and there is a need to concentrate on the development of existing NH network.

Manned space flight to moon

2763. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch a manned space flight to moon;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time-frame within which it is proposed to be done;

(c) whether Government is also developing its own version of the Global Positioning System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, ISRO has completed study of human space flight to carry a two member crew to low earth orbit and return them safely to earth. The project report on human space flight is under various stages of approvals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) ISRO is developing a Regional Navigation System for India and neighbourhood areas. This is called Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) and is planned to be operational by 2012-13 timeframe.

Deorbitting of American satellite

†2764. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that one Amercian satellite has left its orbit;

(b) if so, the part of that country where this satellite is likely to fall down and by when;

(c) whether any assessment of the damages to be caused by the falling of this satellite has been made;

(d) if so, the damages that may be caused due to it together with the details of the means to avoid the same; and

(e) the efforts being made by Government to prevent it from falling in any part of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is learnt from the news sources that an American satellite USA 193, which was non-functional since its launch on December 14, 2006, was intercepted by the US Navy Missile SM-3 from the naval ship, USS Lake Erie stationed off Hawaii,on February 21, 2008 (at 0326 hrs GMT), at a very low altitude (below 250 Kms). While this satellite was travelling from North Pacific across America, down towards Atlantic Ocean, it was successfully intercepted by the missile and the satellite exploded into pieces, as claimed.

As this satellite was destroyed at very low orbit, most of the major parts/pieces of the satellite, which are called as space debris, are expected to reach/re-enter the atmosphere within 45 minutes and they would be burnt-up in the atmosphere at very high temperature generated due to friction. It is also expected that rest of debris of small size would also be re-entering within 40 days. Hence, there is no concern that the spacecraft would fall in its full size over any region or country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.